THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) No Sir. The Government have banned the exhibition and training of Bears, Monkeys, Tigers, Panthers and Lions *vide* Government of India's notification G.S.R. 619(E) dated 14th October, 1998.

(c) The Government have banned only those animals which are endangered species, suffer extreme cruelty during training. These animals are regarded as untamable and poaching and illegal trading is suspected of such animals.

Removal of encroachments from Wakf properties

3767. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU) : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether sections 54 and 55 of the Wakf Act, 1995 bestow special powers on Chief Executive Officer of a Wakf Board for removal of encroach ments on Wakf properties;

(b) if so, whether these powers are being exercised by Chief Executive Officers;

(c) the number of encroachments removed during last five years, year-wise and State-wise;

(d) if not, the reasons thereof; and

(c) the action taken by her Ministry for compliance ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (e) As per provision under section 54 of the Wakf Act, 1995, the Chief Executive Officer has powers to issue notice to the encroacher and order, after conducting an equiry requiring the encroacher to remove such encroachment. In the event of the encroacher failing to remove the encroachment, the Chief Executive Officer is to take action for evicting the encroacher as per provision under section 55 of the Wakf Act. Details on removal of encroachment from Wakf properties are maintained by the State Governments. The Central Government has been pursuing the removal of encroachments from Wakf properties with the States/ Union Territories.